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SIPDIS

IIP/G/NEA (BDURANT); NEA/PPD (JBAROODY, CBOURGEOIS, JGAFFNEY); NEA/ARN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DVC Program on the Literary Works of Ernest

Hemingway: Program Evaluation: Tracker Number 15010

1. Summary: PAS Amman conducted the third DVC program in a DVC series entitled "Regional American Writers" at 1400 GMT on Wednesday, June 5. The program revolved around the Literary Works of legendary American writer, Ernest Hemingway. The attendance was good with an audience of about thirty university faculty members, American Studies students, writers and scholars who displayed their involvement in the program by posing many interesting and valuable questions to our guest speaker.

2. Description of Activity: The 90 minute session took place in the PAS auditorium room.

3. Date: June 5, 2002; third Quarter FY-2002

4. Justification and Objectives: The DVC program provided our audience with a firsthand exploration of Hemingway's literary world and his life. Many of his works such as "A Farewell to Arms," "Death in the Afternoon" and in particular his masterpiece "The Old Man and the Sea" for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1952 were discussed in detail. The program also helped the audience understand what motivated Hemingway to write as he did. The speaker, Hemingway biographer Mr. A.E. Hotchner, who knew the Nobel Prize winning author, familiarised the audience with the upsetting and moving experiences Hemingway faced, such as his plane crash in Africa in 1952 and his injury in World War One in Italy. These experiences as well others and his four marriages all affected his work and shaped his writing, giving result to his literary style as verified by Mr. Hotchner who stated "Ernest is certainly in all his works." He believed his success as a writer and as a celebrity was in the fact that he "brought the world to America" by writing about far away places such as Africa and of safaris in "Green Hills of Africa." Through his work, readers saw him as a war hero, a marlin fisherman, a war correspondent and lastly, a tragic figure.

5. MPP Goal: This program supported the MPP goals promoting Jordanian understanding and appreciation of U.S society, culture, institutions and values.

6. Result/impact: The Jordanian audience was very pleased with the guest speaker, Mr. A.E. Hotchner. His approach was very impressive and very affable. He spoke of Hemingway as a writer, as a man and above all, as a friend. He helped unravel many of Hemingway's thoughts and feelings which are a mystery to Hemingway's readers. There was a general feeling in the audience that there is no one fitter for making the true Hemingway known to people other than Mr. Hotchner. Hotchner even clarified false impressions about Hemingway being a womaniser, as Hemingway's readers and people the world over were led to believe by gossip columns and newspapers. He simply said that he was a celebrity and was great friends with many actresses such as Marlene Dietrich and Ingrid Bergman. He even recounted personal experiences which made the audience laugh out loud, such as Hemingway's remark the first time he saw his novel "A Farewell to Arms" made into a film. He declared that having worked so hard on the book and then seeing it mangled on screen like that was "Like pissing on your father's beard!" On a more serious note, he answered a question posed by a student about Hemingway's death and what compelled him to commit suicide. Hotchner commented that there was a slow decline in Hemingway's enjoyment of life. The experiences he faced in life, such as two world wars and a plane crash led him into a depression and fatalism so that he couldn't write anymore and when he couldn't write, he didn't want to live.

7. Press Coverage: The Arabic daily Ad Dustour ran an article on the DVC program on Saturday, June 8. The article covered the topics discussed during the program. It also discussed Ernest Hemingway at length and mentioned some of his works, such as "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "A Moveable Feast" and "The Old Man and the Sea" for which he won the Pulitzer prize in 1953. The article also mentioned the reasons why Hemingway was labeled "The Writer of the 20th Century" saying it was the credibility in his works and his clever choice of characters which readers could relate to. The article also discussed Mr. Hotchner at great length and

mentioned his literary works and involvement and accomplishments in film and cinema.

18. Comments: The connection was made through Sprint. It yielded a good picture, resolution and sound. The connection was not obstructed at all during the program.

19. Quality of Support: Excellent. PAS Amman appreciates the support of IIP/G/NEA, IIP/T/SV and NEA/PPD. Many thanks go to Mr. Michael Bandler for his continuous support. We look forward to continued cooperation and success on the final DVC program of this quarterly series on Regional American Writers. GNEHM